MANJANKUZHI CHIRA—HARDSHIP CAUSED BY EARLY CLOSING OF

113. Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon *(Kattur)*: Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) in which month every year the Manjankuzhi *chira* (മഞ്ഞാൻകുഴി ചിറ) used to be closed;

(*b*) whether sanction was given to close it this year in the month of Kanni;

(*c*) was there any petition to the Government complaining against the closing of the *chira* in the month of Kanni this year;

(*d*) have the Government considered about the loss and hardship caused to agriculturists of the place on account of this early closing of the *chira*;

(*e*) will the Government be pleased to make a thorough enquiry in the matter?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*:

(*a*) The *chira* is usually closed in Vrischigam every year.

(*b*) Yes; to avoid drought in the Mundakan lands in and around Thottipal.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) No loss or hardship is caused to the agriculturists of the place. On the other hand, it has resulted in considerable benefit to them.

(*e*) The officers of the Revenue and Public Works Departments inspected the locality and it was seen that the early putting up of the chira served its purpose very well. No further enquiry is deemed necessary.

Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon *(Kattur)*: With regard to sub-division (c), may I know whether the petitioners have any interest in the properties affected by this *chira*?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: The representations which are received against the putting up of this *chira* were that it obstructed navigation.

Mr. A. L. Antony *(Irinjalakkuda)*: Was there not a complaint from the agriculturists that on the western side of Thottipal, their lands are affected?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: I do not remember about any petition complaining about any adverse

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effects on account of this *chira* on the lands to the western side of the Manjankuzhi *chira*.

Mr. A. L. Antony *(Irinjalakkuda):* Is this *chira* put only as a temporary measure, owing to the drought this year?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* There was unusual scarcity of water during the early part, in Chingam and Kanni, of this cultivation season. To save the lands in Thottipal and places around it, we put up this temporary bund.

Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon *(Kattur):* May I know, Sir, whether there was any complaint till this year regarding the putting up of this bund in Vrischigam?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* As I told you in the first instance the main complaint was its obstruction to navigation.

Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon *(Kattur):* Was there any complaint that it was obstructing navigation when the *chira* was put up in Vrischigam?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* A few years back we put up the *chira* early in Vrischigam. Then, there was another block of lands on the Chengaloor road where *puncha* was cultivated. They said, the earlier putting up of this *chira* causes the flooding of these lands.

Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon *(Kattur):* May I bring to the notice of the House that while the agriculturists at one side of the *chira* are benefited, those at the other side are detrimentally affected?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* I may submit for the information of the hon'ble member that that statement is not fully correct. Just a few days ago, I received a petition to the effect that the *mundakan* lands on the south-western side of the Manjankuzhi *chira* are affected on account of the water rising, and that they are not, therefore, able to start the *mundakan* cultivation early. It was enquired into and found that this was due not solely to the *chira* having been put up but more on account of monsoon water accumulating.

The reason why this *chira* was put up a little earlier this year was for the purpose of collecting water for the use of *Mundakan* crops in Thottippal village. There were twice flooding of these lands this year, once at the beginning of Karkadagam and the second time towards the end of Karkadagam. The area of Thottippal and other villages downwards were very seriously affected, so much so if

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this state of affairs continued, they may not be in a position to pay the tax even from the second crop. They, therefore, approached the Chief Engineer and put in a complaint that the Manjarikuzhi *chira* should be allowed to be put up earlier this year, and if that was done, it will be of much help to them. The *chira* was, therefore, allowed to be put up and it served a very useful purpose. The second crop which would not have been successful otherwise, has practically become successful. The *chira* has served an area of about 500 acres and two or three villages were well served. Then the adjacent tile factory owners complained that this *chira* obstructed the passage of their timber, etc. The Chief Engineer was of opinion that there was no necessity for continuing the *chira* after the north-east monsoon set in. The matter was referred to me by the Chief Engineer and he asked me whether after the commencement of this monsoon, this *chira* should be allowed to continue and whether it should not be opened. I went with my Tahsildar and made enquiries and found that it ought to be opened, and we got it opened.

Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon *(Kattur)*: May I know whether this is only an arrangement for this year?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: If it is going to be useful to the agriculturists, it may be continued. If it serves a large area of about 500 acres of *mundakan* crops, the matter of continuing to put it up in Chingam every year will have to be considered. In fact, the villagers have approached me with that request.

Mr. A. L. Antony *(Irinjalakkuda)*: So, was it opened?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: From 3rd Vrischigam 1116, it was opened.

Mr. P. K. Madhava Menon *(Narakkal)*: May I know the approximate area that has been benefited by the putting up of this *chira* this year?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: I made a rough estimate of 500 acres.

Mr. P. K. Madhava Menon *(Narakkal)*: And the area adversely affected?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: Comparatively little.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: വെള്ളം അധികമായാൽ സ്പിൽവേയിൽ കൂടി ഊറ്റം വിടുവാൻ സാധിക്കുകയില്ലേ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: If there is a very heavy north-east monsoon, the sluice will not be able to stand. It will automatically give way.

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മിസ്റ്റർ. കെ. എസ്സ്". പണിക്കർ: ഈ ചിറ കാലേ കെട്ടാത്തതുകൊണ്ടാണ് വെള്ളം കിട്ടാഞ്ഞതെന്ന ആക്ഷേപം കൃഷിക്കാരിൽ നിന്നുണ്ടായിട്ടില്ലെ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* During every year we used to get complaints on account of the fact that the *chira* was not constructed.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്" പണിക്കർ: ഇപ്പോൾ ഈ ചിറ മുറിച്ചുവൊ?

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. അരവിന്ദാക്ഷ മേനോൻ: ഉവ്വ്".

IRRIGATION SCHEMES—INFORMATION REGARDING

114. Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* Will the Government be pleased to give a list of new irrigation schemes the investigations of which are completed and the amount estimated for them ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* A list is placed on the table.*

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* Sir, the list contains about 21 items of schemes involving an expenditure of about 30 lakhs of rupees. May I know whether all these schemes can be successfully worked?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Several of these schemes have been referred to the Irrigation Board and their opinion on the matter is awaited. Some of the schemes have been reported upon adversely from the financial stand-point by the Revenue Department.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* Can I have an idea of those schemes?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* The Cheerakuzhi Scheme. This will not bring as much revenue as is consistent with the expenditure. That is the opinion of the Revenue Department. Similar is the case with the Puthur Scheme costing about Rs. 93,000. Then, the Thottara *Puncha* drainage scheme is under investigation. The drainage scheme in Eroor and Nadamel villages is a scheme comprising both irrigation and navigation. We are now collecting statistics about the financial possibility of this scheme. All these schemes are being investigated. Estimates have been prepared, and some have not been reported upon favourably.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* Am I to take it that there are several other schemes also which have been investigated and found successful?

*Appendix I.

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